

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1. On page 1 of the specification, replace the second paragraph under "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" beginning on line 9 and ending on line 18 with the following paragraph:

Examples of various types of seed deflectors adapted to be mounted directly to the seed tube are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. ~~2,533,474~~ 2,533,374 issued to Hyland; 5,092,255 issued to Long et al.; and 6,283,050 issued to Schaffert. Examples of various types of seed firmers adapted to be secured directly to the seed tube are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,425,318 and 5,673,638 issued to Eugene G. Keeton, commercial embodiments of which, known as the Keeton™ seed firmers, are manufactured and distributed by Precision Planting, Inc., 23207 Townline Road, Tremont, Illinois 61568. The specifications and drawings of each of the above-identified patents are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference and such seed deflectors and seed firmers are collectively referred to hereinafter as "resilient tools."

2. On page 4 of the specification, replace the first paragraph under "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION," beginning on line 9 and ending on line 23, with the following paragraph:

Drawing FIG. 1 illustrates a partial side elevation view of a typical John Deere row-crop agricultural seed planter 10. The seed planter 10 of FIG. 1, comprises a wheeled main frame (not shown) adapted to be pulled by a prime mover (not shown). The wheeled main frame includes a transversely disposed tool bar 12 that supports a plurality of transversely spaced row unit assemblies 14. The row unit assemblies 14 are generally vertically adjustable with respect to the tool bar 12, such as by a parallel linkage 16 or the like. Each row unit assembly 14 is generally comprised of a longitudinally disposed row unit frame 18 which typically supports at least one seed hopper 20 and an insecticide hopper 21, a seed tube 22, a seed tube guard 24, a furrow opening assembly 26, and a furrow closing assembly 28. The furrow opening assembly 26 is typically comprised of a pair of furrow opening discs 30 and a pair of gauge wheels 32. The furrow opening discs 30 are supported on a transverse shaft 34 depending from the row unit frame 18. The seed tube 22 is disposed rearwardly of the shaft 34 and between the opening discs 30 such that the seed tube 22 is in substantial alignment with a furrow 36 created by the opening discs 30.

3. Replace the last paragraph beginning on page 7 at line 26 and continuing onto page 8, line 20, with the following paragraph:

FIGs. 6-14 illustrate various embodiments of improved bracket assemblies comprising the present invention. Referring, first to FIG. 6, a first embodiment of an improved bracket assembly 300 is shown. As with the existing bracket assembly 100, this first improved bracket assembly 300 comprises a housing 312 having opposing, preferably substantially mirror-image, first and second sides 314, 316. The housing 312 preferably includes mounting structure 318 comprising upper and lower ears 320, 322. However, rather than the ears 320, 322 formed from thermoplastic material as in the existing bracket assembly 100, the upper ears 320 comprise metal ear[s] tabs preferably integrally attached with the housing 312 by inserting molding the metal ear[s] tabs 320 during the injection molding process when forming the housing 312.

Alternatively, rather than insert molding, the metal ear tabs 320 may be integrally attached to the housing 312 by a rivet connection, bolted connection, adhesives or welding by any know means, or any other joining processes. The housing 312 further includes walls 324 for maintaining the first and second sides 314, 316 in spaced apart relation. The walls 324 further define a cavity 326 within which an upper end of a resilient tool 900 is receivable. The housing 312 preferably includes conduit supports 328 extending rearwardly and formed integrally with the housing 312 for receiving a liquid conduit 910. In the preferred embodiment, a locking member 334, such as a threaded connector, is provided operable on the upper end of the resilient tool 900 to restrain the resilient tool within the cavity 326. Depending on the type of resilient tool 900 installed, the locking member 334 is also preferably operable on the upper end of the resilient tool 900 to adjust the position of the lower end of the resilient tool 900 with respect to the lower end of the housing 312, by adjusting the position of the locking member 334 with respect to the housing 312. Additionally, as shown in FIG. 7, support arm 800 (shown in dashed lines) (discussed later) may be supported by the housing 312 to support any desired number of conduits 920.